


REPORT

DATE: September 2, 2004
TO: Energy and Environment Committee
FROM: Ted Harris, Associate Regional Planner, harrist@scag.ca.gov, (213) 236-1916
RE: 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (2004 RTIP) Air Quality Conformity

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Recommend that the Regional Council approve the air quality conformity determination for the 2004 RTIP as part of resolution # 04-453-2.

SUMMARY:

The federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requires SCAG to determine transportation air quality conformity for the 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). Specifically, section (176(c) (42 U.S.C. 7506(c)) requires transportation plans and programs to be consistent with ("conform to") the air quality goals established by a state air quality implementation plan (SIP). The purpose of the state SIP is to meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards for air quality.

According to the CAA, transportation plans and programs cannot:

- create new violations of the federal air quality standards;
- increase the frequency or severity of existing violations of the standards; or
- delay attainment of the standards

The five key tests used to determine transportation air quality conformity for the RTIP include:

1. Interagency consultation and public involvement
2. Consistency of the RTIP with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
3. Regional emission budgets
4. Funds to implement
5. Timely implementation of Transportation Control Measures (TCMs)

The process to develop and circulate the 2004 RTIP has fulfilled all of the requirements to ensure meaningful public involvement and coordinated interagency consultation. SCAG released the Draft RTIP for a 30-day public review and comment period on June 18, 2004. During June-July 2004, SCAG conducted seven public hearings one in each county and one for the entire SCAG region. A complete set of the Draft 2004 RTIP documents was posted on SCAG's web-site on June 18, 2004. At the same time, copies of the Draft 2004 RTIP documents were placed in the public libraries and



notices of public hearings and availability of the Draft documents were advertised in the major regional newspapers. SCAG's Transportation Conformity Working Group has served as a forum for interagency consultation, and additionally, there were many ad-hoc meetings held between the involved agencies for this purpose.

The 2004 RTIP is consistent with the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Specifically, SCAG's 2004 RTIP project listing is consistent with the policies, programs, and projects in the 2004 RTP.

The results of the transportation and associated emissions modeling demonstrate that emissions associated with implementing the 2004 RTIP will not exceed the applicable regional emission budgets established in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Furthermore, the modeling meets or exceeds the modeling requirements mandated by federal regulations and the analysis employs the latest planning assumptions.

The 2004 RTIP meets the fiscal constraint requirements. All projects listed in the 2004 RTIP are financially constrained for all fiscal years. Specifically, funds are available and committed for the first two years of the RTIP, and funds are reasonably expected for the years of the RTIP beyond the first two years.

After extensive review and coordination with the implementing agencies, staff have determined that committed Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) designated in the 2002 RTIP have been given funding priority, are expected to be implemented on schedule, and any initial obstacles identified have been or are being overcome. Furthermore, TCM strategies listed in the 1994 (as amended in 1995) Ozone AQMP/SIP for the VC/SCCAB were given funding priority and are on schedule for implementation.

CONCLUSION

Staff have determined that the 2004 RTIP has fulfilled the requirements for all of the conformity tests and recommends that the Regional Council approve the positive conformity determination as part of the approval resolution (04-453-2) of the 2004 RTIP.

ATTACHMENTS

Powerpoint Presentation
Under separate cover Resolution 04-453-2 will follow

FISCAL IMPACT:

The staff resources for determining air quality conformity for the 2004 RTIP are contained within the Fiscal Years 2003/04 and 2004/05 SCAG budgets.

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Resolution 04-453-2

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**Energy and
Environment
Committee**

2004 RTIP Air Quality Conformity


Ted Harris
Air Quality Program Lead
Southern California
Association of Governments

September 2, 2004




The 2004 SCAG Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

1




**The 2004
Regional
Transportation
Improvement
Program (RTIP)**

- 6 year capital listing of transportation projects
- Fiscal Years 2004/05 – 2009/2010
- Requires state and federal approval and conformity




The 2004 SCAG Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

2



**2004 RTIP
Conformity
Tests**

- 1) Public involvement
- 2) Consistency with 2004 RTP
- 3) Regional emissions budgets
- 4) Funds to implement
- 5) Timely implementation of Transportation Control Measures (TCMs)



The 2004 SCAG Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

3

Public Involvement

- **Meaningful public participation**
 - 30-day public review of Draft RTIP
 - 7 public hearings
 - SCAG Website
 - Public Libraries
 - Notices posted in major newspapers
- **Coordinated interagency consultation**
 - Transportation Conformity Working Group
 - Ongoing coordination meetings

The 2004 SCAG Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

4

Consistency with the 2004 RTP

2004 RTIP is consistent with 2004 RTP's

- Policies
- Programs
- Projects

The 2004 SCAG Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)


5

Regional Emission Tests


- **Emissions for 2004 RTIP are within the SIP budgets**
 - VOC/ROG
 - NOx
 - CO
 - PM10
- **Analysis meets federally mandated modeling requirements**
- **Employs latest planning assumptions**

The 2004 SCAG Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)


6




Funds to Implement




- RTIP is financially constrained
- Funds are committed for first 2 years of the RTIP
- Funds are reasonably available for the 3rd to 6th years of the RTIP



The 2004 SCAG Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)
7




Transportation Control Measures (TCMs)




TCMs are identified and committed transportation projects or programs that reduce vehicle use or change traffic flow or congestion conditions for the purposes of reducing emissions from transportation sources (40 CFR 93.101).


The 2004 SCAG Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)
8





Timely Implementation of TCMs



TCMs in 2004 RTIP

- Given Priority
- On schedule or
- Obstacles are being overcome



The 2004 SCAG Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)
9



Conformity Lapse


Serious consequences include:

- SCAG could not approve non-exempt regionally significant projects,
- No federal approval of capacity enhancing projects, and
- The region would lose flexibility and could be forced to redirect up to \$8.5 billion in transportation funds.




The 2004 SCAG Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

10



Recommended Action

Recommend that the Regional Council approve the conformity determination for the 2004 RTIP as part of Resolution **04-453-2**



The 2004 SCAG Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

11
